

Criminological Insights

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The Cartographers War Room

The Coromandel Proxy: An 18th-Century Masterclass in Asymmetric Warfare

Synthesising the 1749–1752 East Indies Conflicts
following the Death of the Nabob of Arcot.

Derived from the Genuine London Account, 1753.

A GENUINE
ACCOUNT
Of some
Transactions in the *East Indies*,
Containing the most Material
OCCURRENCES
ON THE
Coast of COROMANDEL,
Since the Death of the late
NABOB OF ARCOT.
Who was Killed in Battle in *July* 1759

LONDON:
Printed by R. BALDWIN, at the *Sign* in
Papierieff 1753.

The Spark & The Stakes



The death of **Nabob Annaverdee-Cawn** in July 1749 created a severe power vacuum in the province, triggering an **opportunistic succession crisis**.

This was a **shadow war**. European powers supplied artillery and troops; local claimants to the "Country Government" provided legitimacy, territory, and manpower.

The Proxy War Matrix

	The French Faction	The English Faction
European Commanders	<u>Monsieur Dupleix</u> (Governor)	Major Lawrence & <u>Capt. Clive</u>
Local Proxies & Claimants	Muzipher Jing (Claimant to the Empire) Chuenda Saib (Claimant to Arcot)	Nazir Jing (Initial Ally) Mahomed Ally (Rightful Heir to Arcot)

Phase I: French Ascendancy & The Art of Treachery

July 1749

French and proxy forces defeat and kill Nabob Annaverdee-Cawn.

Mid-1750

English forces retreat amid political misunderstandings. French forces capture key forts including Gingey and Waldore.

The Assassination Signal



French conspirators fired a 'fire ball' as the signal to attack, while the mutineers fired only powder to identify each other in the dark.

December 5, 1750: The Nadir

The English proxy, Nazir Jing, is assassinated through the treacherous influence of Prime Minister Shawnavaafs-Cawn.

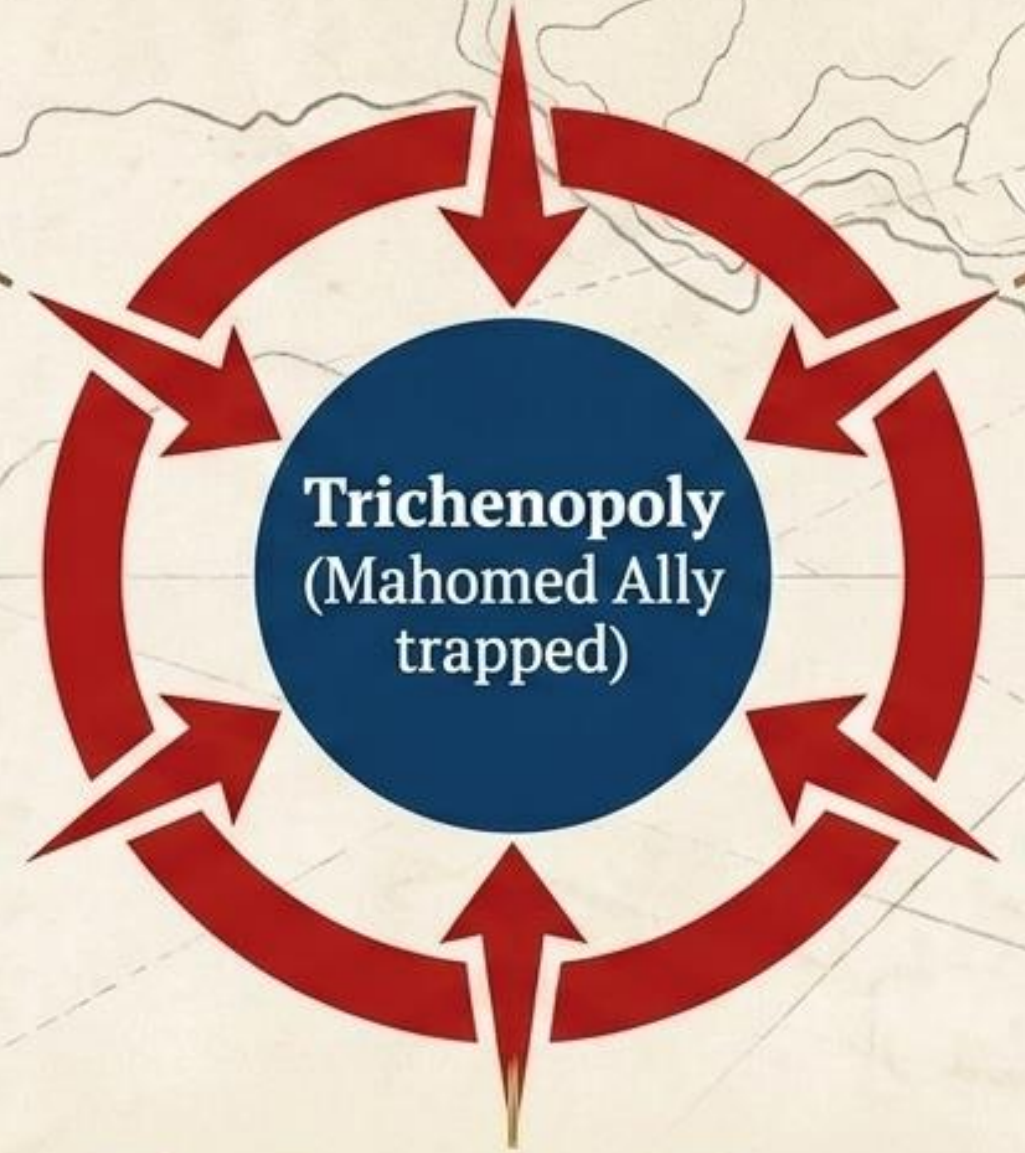
The Siege of Trichenopoly (Stalemate)

**The Rightful
Heir Cornered**

Mahomed Ally flees to
the heavily fortified
Trichenopoly.

**The Inactive
English**

English forces remain
paralyzed or in retreat.



Trichenopoly
(Mahomed Ally
trapped)

The Looming Threat

If Trichenopoly falls, the French gain
total mastery over the province.

Explanatory Visual: Clive's Asymmetric Gambit

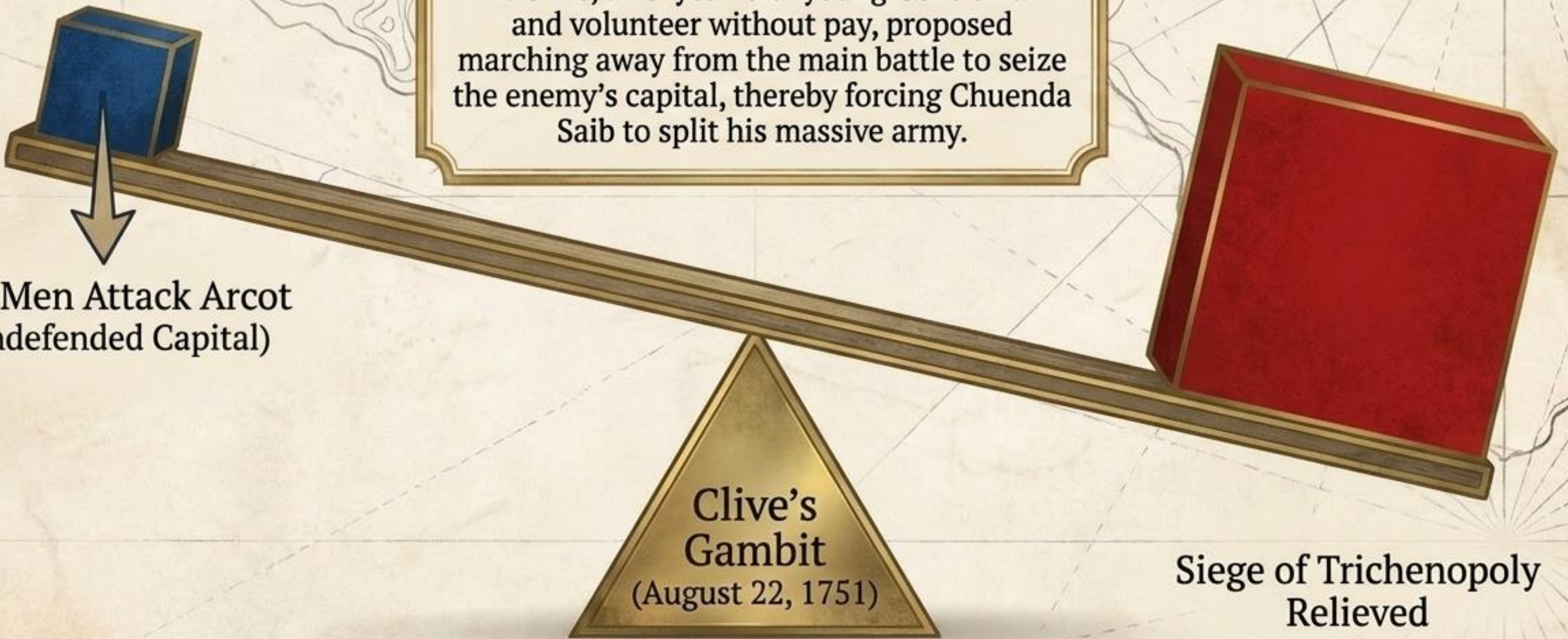
The Architect

Mr. Clive, a 25-year-old 'young Gentleman' and volunteer without pay, proposed marching away from the main battle to seize the enemy's capital, thereby forcing Chuenda Saib to split his massive army.

210 Men Attack Arcot
(Undefended Capital)

Clive's
Gambit
(August 22, 1751)

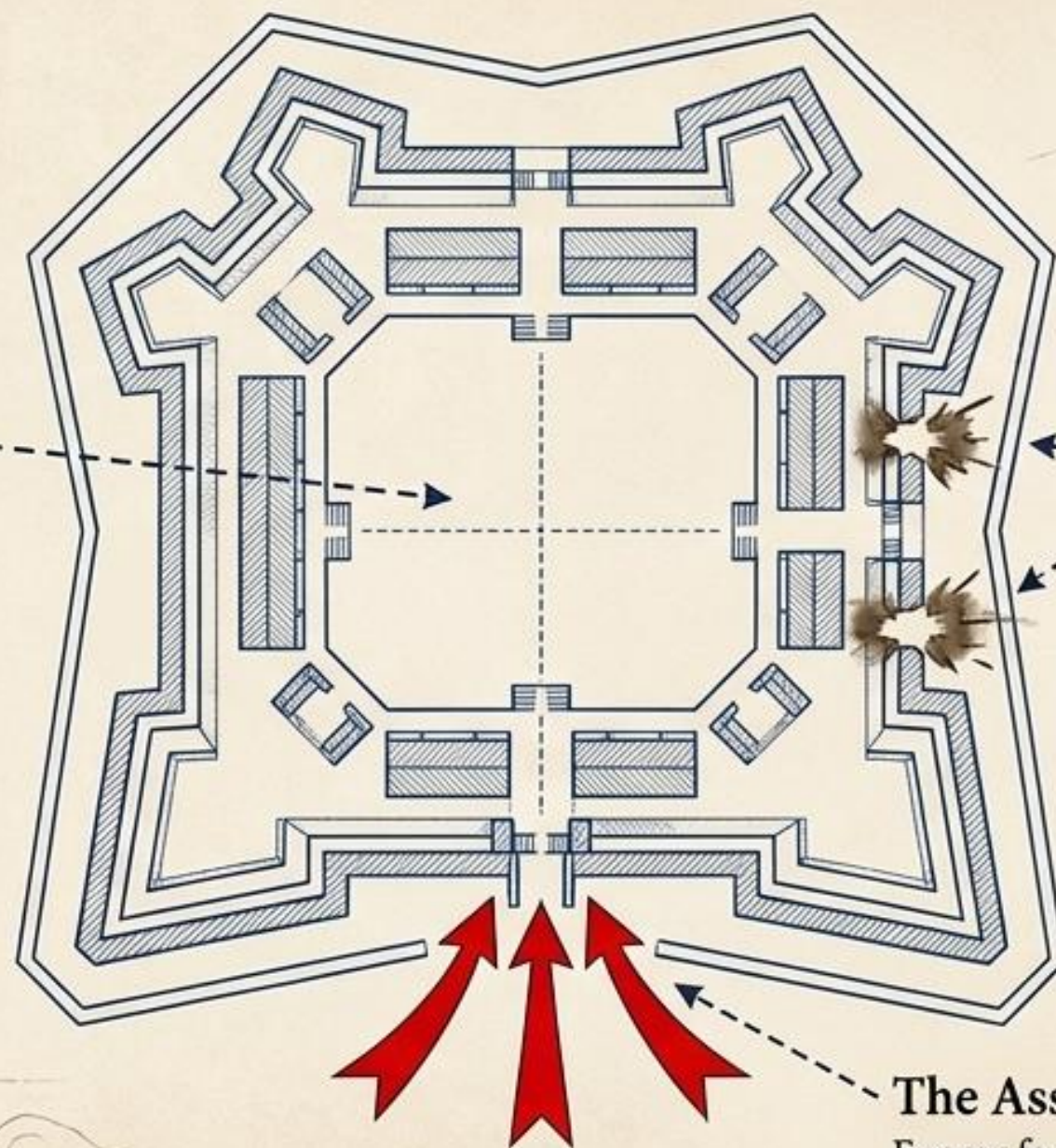
Siege of Trichenopoly
Relieved



The Defence of Arcot: The Turning Point

The Heart & Minds Doctrine

Clive refuses to plunder upon taking the fort, strictly paying for provisions. Result: Immediate local affection and perfect intelligence of enemy designs.



The Defence

Clive uses hidden 'Mask Batteries' to orchestrate a 'terrible Slaughter' at the breaches, repulsing the massive proxy army.

The Assault (Oct 14)

Enemy forces attempt to force the gates using Elephants.

The Pendulum Swings: The Offensive Campaign



The Battle of Couverpauk

The Lie

Dupleix falsely assures his men that Clive is weak.

The Trap

The **French** are confident, but Clive executes a night march, sending a detachment to take a **compass** around their rear battery.

The Strike

A single English platoon fires at close range in the dark; the **French** throw down their arms in panic.

The Erasure of Hubris

[FRENCH TEXT HERE: e.g., Cette colonne fut érigée en l'honneur de Dupleix, Gouverneur Général, pour célébrer la gloire de la France. C'est un témoignage éternel de la domination de nos forces et de la paix imposée par nos armes. La ville fondée ici portera le nom de Dupleix-Ville pour les siècles à venir.]



DESTROYED.

On his march to Fort St. David (March 1752), Clive intentionally detours to raze the unfinished vanity town to the ground, shattering French political momentum and breaking their psychological hold on the region.

The Final Checkmate at Syringham



Step 1: The Trap

The enemy is forced to break camp and retreat into the Syringham Pagoda.

Step 2: The Starvation

Capt. Danteuil is intercepted with money and stores, starving the trapped French.

Step 3: The Betrayal

Chuenda Saib attempts to flee by bribing the King of Tanjore. In a final betrayal, the King cuts off his head and exposes it in the camp.

The Capitulation at Syringham (June 1752)

Human Cost

600+ French
Prisoners

35 Officers
(paroled for a year)

English deserters
pardoned

Material Spoils

1	battering Cannon	—
16	Mortars	—
13	warlike Stores	—
4	Rupees	—
11	—	—
12	48,000 Rupees captured	—
17	Mortars, and Prodig- warlike Stores	—
	Rupees	—

Artillery & Munitions

20+ Battering
Cannons, Mortars,
and Prodigious
Warlike Stores

The province is entirely cleared of enemies; the pendulum of power has permanently swung to the English.

Executive Synthesis: Why the English Won

Asymmetric Thinking

Do not fight where the enemy is strongest. Clive's refusal to fight a static siege at Trichenopoly, opting instead to strike the undefended centre of gravity (Arcot).

Hearts & Minds Intelligence

Brutality blinds; commerce illuminates. By forbidding plunder and paying for goods at Arcot, Clive secured exact intelligence of enemy designs while the French relied on unreliable treachery.

Psychological Dominance

Power is a perception. Destroying Dupleix's vanity monument was as strategically vital as taking a fort, as it physically erased the myth of French invulnerability.

A single bold, asymmetric decision by an unpaid 25-year-old volunteer shifted the destiny of the Indian subcontinent.